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LETTER DATED 1 DECEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Interim Accord signed on 13 September 1995 by the Foreign Ministers of Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been rightly hailed by the international community as an important step towards the establishment of a new relationship between the two countries, based on international law and friendly relations, as well as a significant contribution to the strengthening of stability in the region. It constitutes also an unmistakable proof of my country's resolve to settle disputes peacefully and to ensure harmonious relations with its neighbours.

Furthermore, the practical measures which were agreed only a few days later, in conformity with article 5 of the Interim Accord, fully confirmed Greece's determination to implement swiftly and faithfully the Accord, and to continue its efforts towards solving the remaining differences between our two countries.

It is to be noted that my country's good will and constructive attitude have been praised not only by third countries but by the authorities of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as well, who expressed their appreciation for the spirit of cooperation and the positive approach demonstrated by the Greek representatives to the talks concerning the above-mentioned practical measures.

In this context, I was unpleasantly surprised by the tone and the content of the statement delivered yesterday, presumably upon instructions from his Government, by H.E. Dr. Denko Maleski, Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations, before the Security Council. Indeed, Ambassador Maleski's statement, supposedly on the question of the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP), ran counter to the spirit and the letter of the Interim Accord and the new atmosphere prevailing in the relations between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

I do not wish to expand upon the many references made by Ambassador Maleski to my country or upon his insinuations vis-à-vis other Balkan countries, for that matter. Nor do I wish to expand upon his many misrepresentations and distortions of history, past and recent.

I would only like to point out that the repeated use, by Ambassador Maleski, of an incorrect denomination when referring to his country is contrary not only to the well-known provisions of Security Council resolution 817 (1993), but also to those of the Interim Accord, because it was not any "peculiar formula", but the said resolution of the Security Council, the organ which, according to the Charter of the United Nations, bears primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, which stipulates that the difference that has arisen over the name of the State "needs to be resolved in the interest of peaceful and good-neighbourly relations in the region", and that "the State (...) be admitted to membership in the United Nations ... as 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia' pending settlement of the difference that has arisen over the name of the State", a difference which, along with the need to resolve it, has been officially and contractually admitted and recognized by the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in article 5 of the Interim Accord.

In conclusion, I would like to express the hope that the statement delivered yesterday by Ambassador Maleski was just an unfortunate incident, and that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will seize the opportunity offered by the Interim Accord and the latest positive developments in the former Yugoslavia and work, with the "wisdom and caution" preached by him, towards fully normalizing the relations between our two countries. For it is only through a forward-looking approach that we can enhance peace and stability in our area. Greece, for its part, is ready to assume its responsibilities in this respect.

May I kindly ask for your assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council. I would also like to request that the letter which I addressed to you on 24 November 1995, a copy of which is attached herewith, be circulated as an annex to this letter.

(Signed) Christos ZACHARAKIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 24 November 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In his statement before the Security Council, during the latter's 3595th meeting, on 22 November 1995, H.E. Dr. Denko Maleski, Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations, used, when referring to his country, a denomination which runs counter to the provisions of Security Council resolution 817 (1993).

I would like to draw attention to the fact that, according to paragraph 2 of the said resolution, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been admitted to the United Nations "being provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia', pending settlement of the difference that has arisen over the name of the State".

Furthermore, article 5 of the Interim Accord, signed on 13 September 1995 in New York by the Foreign Ministers of Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia stipulates that the two parties "recognize the difference between them with respect to the name" and "agree to continue negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations pursuant to Security Council resolution 845 (1993) with a view to reaching agreement on the difference described in that resolution and in Security Council resolution 817 (1993)".

My Government sincerely hopes that those negotiations will be speedily concluded, being convinced that the full normalization of relations between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will contribute further to the consolidation of peace and stability in the region.

(Signed) Christos ZACHARAKIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative